

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 13, 16 and 19-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 10, 15, 17 and 18 have been canceled, claim 1 has been amended and claims 19-26 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 13 and 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Morimoto; and claims 6 and 10 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 13 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Morimoto. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the signal processor includes first and second signal converters to output first and second signals, respectively. These features are supported at least by Figures 3 and 5, for example. For example, Figure 5 illustrate an RF signal reproduced by the pick-up unit being converted into first and second signals.

Morimoto is merely directed to recording data on a magneto-optical medium as recited in column 7, line 39. As shown in Figure 7, for example, Morimoto does not teach or suggest a signal processor including first and second signal converters to output first and second signals as claimed by the present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

New Claims

In addition, new claims 19-26 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicant submits the new claims are supported by the originally filed specification. In particular, new claims 19-23 are dependent claims and recite varying features shown in Figure 5. New independent claim 24 is a method claim and also corresponds to the features shown in Figure 5. It is respectfully submitted these claims also define over the cited art.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau, Reg. No. 42,325, (703) 205-8072, at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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